

Appl. No. 10/716,794
Amdt. dated October 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 20, 2006

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REMARKS

Claims 1 - 3, 8, 9 and 18 are pending in the subject application and were addressed in the office action (claims 4 - 7, 10 - 17 and 19 - 24 having been withdrawn from consideration following the previously imposed restriction requirement). Among the pending claims there are two independent claims: claims 1 and 9.

Claims 1-3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Claim 8 and claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Clarifying amendments have been entered in claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 18.

Rejection of claims 1 - 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Krohn et al., (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/002957).

Claim 1 defines a method for making a light active device, comprising, inter alia, selectively cross-linking a monomer in a mixture of the monomer and a light active material to yield a concentration of light active material in one region and a concentration of polymer in another region. Claim 9 defines a similar method that makes use of an OLED in a monomer fluid carrier by selectively polymerizing the monomer.

Krohn et al. discloses an electroluminescent ("EL") device made by depositing a curable EL composition on a substrate between two conductive layers and curing the composition to form an EL active layer. The EL composition comprises a light active material and a monomer, and the Examiner asserts that upon curing, concentrated regions of light active material will be formed "because Krohn does not teach that the materials chemically react before or after curing."

The Examiner's rationale for asserting the rejection above is flawed. The Applicant respectfully points out that a failure of an electroluminescent composition to react before or after curing is not the same as selectively cross-linking the monomer, and nowhere do Krohn et al. expressly disclose selectively cross-linking the monomer in the EL composition. Nor has the Examiner provided any evidence that the monomer in Krohn et al.'s EL composition will inherently be selectively cross-linked to form concentrated regions of light active material. To the contrary, the Applicant's specification teaches the use of a mask to achieve "selectively cross-linking" the monomer (see paragraphs 74-76 and 417), clearly indicating that cross-

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linking in the ordinary course does not inherently yield "selective" cross-linking as recited in the rejected claims. Accordingly, the stated ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Krohn et al. in combination with Andersson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,567).

Claim 8 adds to claim 1, inter alia, the use of an organic light active particulate that includes a conjugated polymer.

Regarding the rejection of claim 8, the Examiner concedes that Krohn et al. do not disclose EL conjugated polymers, and cites Andersson et al. as disclosing a light emitting polymer diode device made from combinations of EL conjugated polymers, asserting that it would be obvious to use Andersson et al.'s EL conjugated polymers in Krohn et al.'s device. However, Andersson et al. make no mention of selective cross-linking a monomer to form an EL layer; rather, they describe dissolving the combination of polymers in a solvent, preparing a thin film from the solution by spin coating the solution onto a substrate (see column 3, lines 32-36 and, e.g., Example 1). In any case, there is no indication that using Andersson et al.'s conjugated polymers in the Krohn et al. composition will yield "selective cross-linking" as recited in claim 1. Therefore, even the combination of Krohn et al. and Andersson et al. fails to disclose the elements of claim 1, from which claim 8 depends. Accordingly, the stated ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Rorison et al. (Great Britain Patent GB 2,344,691) in combination with Krohn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,567).

Rorison et al. disclose an EL device in which adjacent emitting regions are polarized in different directions, and state that EL elements that can be formed by disposing emissive molecules in a fluid matrix (reactive mesogen), a matrix that is oriented and fixed by applying an electric or magnetic field and exposing the matrix to UV light (see page 12, lines 15-24). Rorison et al. further disclose that selected parts of the matrix can be "fixed" by using a mask (page 12, lines 26-30). The Examiner asserts that the first and second regions of Rorison et al. contain concentrations of light active material and polymer respectively, but concedes that

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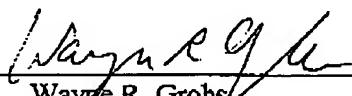
Rorison et al. fails to disclose cross-linking a monomer in a mixture of monomer and light active material; for this, the Examiner cites Krohn et al.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Rorison et al. Rorison et al. describes the adjacent regions as differing in the *orientation* of emissive molecules, rather than in their concentration, and so does not disclose "selective cross-linking" that yields different regions of concentration of light active material and polymer as recited in Applicant's claims. Therefore, Rorison et al. fail to disclose an element of the rejected claims. In addition, for the reasons discussed above, Krohn et al. does not provide such a teaching either. Thus, the applied references fail to disclose all of the limitations of the rejected claims and cannot be deemed to render those claims obvious. Accordingly, the stated ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of the stated objections and grounds of rejection have been traversed. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the foregoing remarks is respectfully requested.

The Applicant believes that no fees are due with this response. If it is determined that fees are due, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342, maintained by the attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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